

Coastal Habitats In Puget Sound: A Research Plan in support of Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration

Guy Gelfenbaum, US Geological Survey*

Tom Mumford, WA Department of Natural Resources

Lee Case, USGS, Megan Dethier, UW, Kurt Fresh, NOAA, Fred Goetz, USACOE, Marijke van Heeswijk, USGS, Miles Logsdon, UW, Jan Newton, UW, Hugh Shipman, Ecology, Charles Simenstad, UW, David Woodson

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In response to pressures on the nearshore of Puget Sound, state natural resource agencies have joined Federal agencies, tribes, the commercial sector, NGOs, and local governments to form the Puget Sound Restoration Program (PSRP). This partnership is working to restore and preserve nearshore habitat to help rehabilitate the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem and prevent additional damage as human population increases. PSRP supports a strong science-based approach to restoration management. One component of the PSRP effort is a research plan that promotes scientific studies that will ultimately assist decision-makers protect and restore the nearshore ecosystem. Six research goals have been identified: 1) Understand nearshore ecosystem processes and linkages to watershed and marine systems; 2) Understand the effects of human activities on nearshore ecosystem processes; 3) Understand and predict the incremental and cumulative effects of restoration and preservation actions on nearshore ecosystems; 4) Understand the effects of social, cultural, and economic values on restoration and protection of the nearshore; 5) Understand the relationships of nearshore processes to important ecosystem functions such as support of human health and at-risk species; 6) Understand the roles of information--its representation, conceptualization, organization, and interpretation--related to nearshore ecosystem processes on the preservation and restoration potential of Puget Sound.